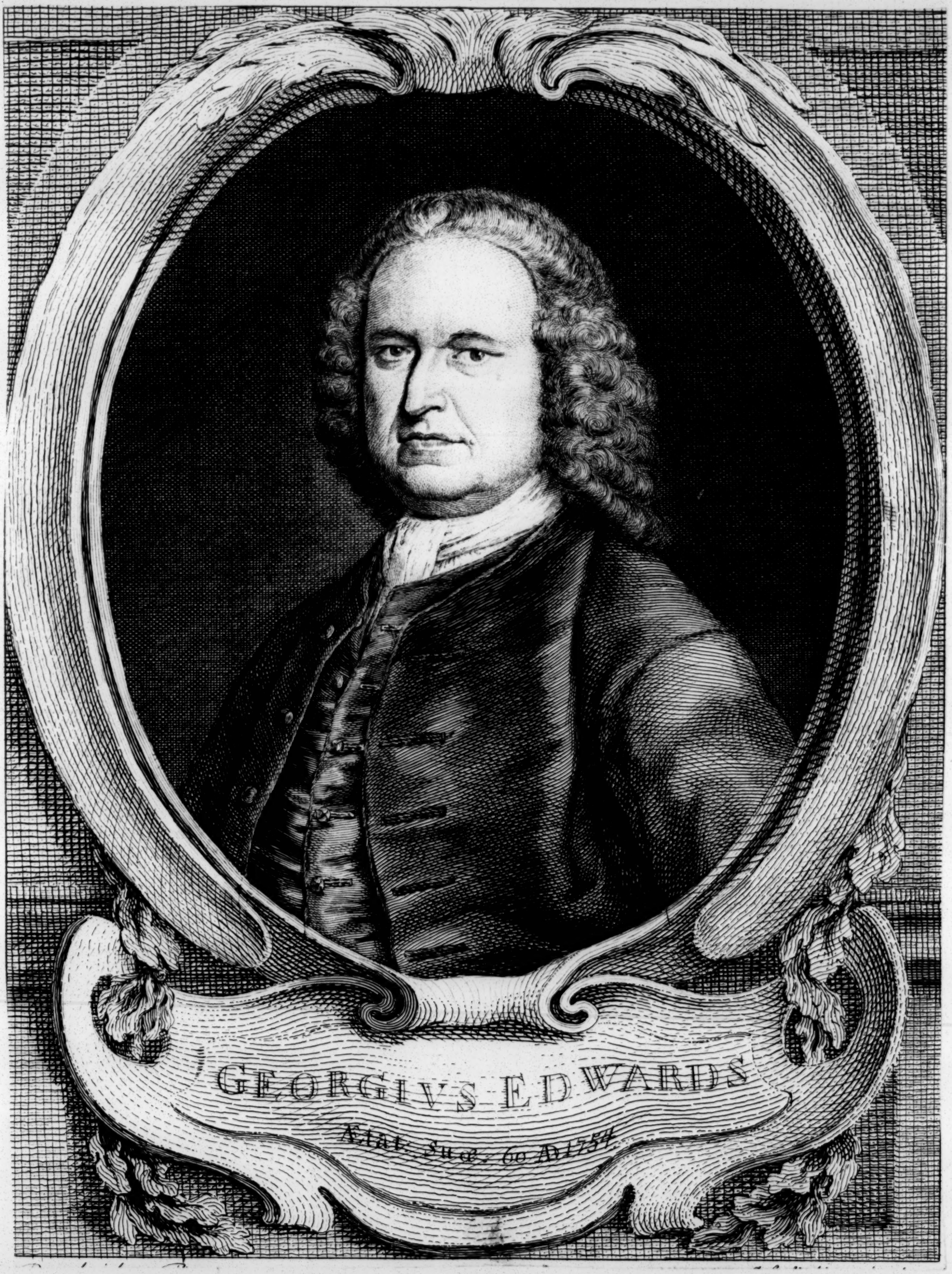
GEORGIVS EDWARDS
Ætat. Suæ. 60 Ad 1754

SOME

MEMOIRS

OF THE

LIFE AND WORKS

OF

GEORGE EDWARDS,

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETIES.

———————— *His Search,*
Amid the dark Receſſes of his Works,
The great Creator ſought.

THOMSON.

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The Grenville Library

MEMOIRS

OF

MR. GEORGE EDWARDS.

GEORGE EDWARDS was born at *Stratford*, a hamlet belonging to *Weſtham* in *Eſſex*, on the 3d of *April* 1694. He paſſed ſome of his early years under the tuition of a clergyman, named *Hewit*, who was then maſter of a public ſchool at *Layton-Stone*, which is only a few miles diſtant from the village where he was born. After quitting the ſchool he was placed with another miniſter of the eſtabliſhed church at *Brentwood*; and, being deſigned by his parents for buſineſs, was put apprentice to a tradeſman in *Fenchurch Street*. His maſter, not leſs diſtinguiſhed for his ſtrict regard to religion, than for his uncommon ſkill in the learned languages, treated him with remarkable kindneſs and civility.

An event happened about the middle of the term of his apprenticeſhip, which it is neceſſary to mention. Dr. *Nicholas*, a perſon of eminence in the phyſical world, and a relative of his maſter, happened to die. His books, which were very numerous, having been removed from *Covent Garden* to an apartment then occupied by our young naturaliſt, he availed himſelf of this unexpected incident, and paſſed all the leiſure of the day, and not unfrequently a conſiderable part of the night, in turning over this collection of natural hiſtory, ſculpture, painting, aſtronomy, and antiquities.

The expectation of obtaining that opulence which commerce beſtows on her aſſiduous votaries, now ceaſed. The ſhop and the exchange had loſt all their delights; and, on the expiration of his ſervitude, he conceived a deſign to travel into foreign countries, to improve his taſte, and enlarge his mind.

In 1716, having no intention of entering on buſineſs, he took ſhipping for *Holland*, and viſited moſt of the principal towns of the *United Provinces*, remaining abſent a month. On his return, he was two years unemployed in *London* and its neighbourhood,

and

and then went on board a ſhip bound to *Norway*, at the invitation of a gentleman who was diſpoſed to be his friend, and whoſe nephew was maſter of the veſſel in which he embarked.

Nothing material occured on the voyage, and they ſoon arrived at the deſigned port. A country diverſified with rocks of ſtupendous magnitude, and trees of unfading verdure, where ſome of the natives have ſcarce experienced the arts of civilization, could not fail to afford novelty, if it did not impart ſatisfaction to an Engliſhman. The ſun, during his ſtay, ſet only to riſe; and few hours were allotted to ſleep, either by him, or his company. Sometimes he wandered on the banks of creeks, the haunt of ſea-fowl, and other rude birds, where no articulate voice was heard; and at other ſeaſons, remarked the progreſs of vegetation among the hills: And yet ſuch is the force of cuſtom in the human mind, that the rude inhabitant has no ambition to quit his native mountains, clad with perpetual ſnow, for the ſunny regions of more ſouthern latitudes. Our author frequently experienced among theſe illiterate people that hoſpitality which flouriſhes leſs vigorouſly in more civilized countries.

In

In his excurſion to *Frederickſtadt*, he was not diſtant from the thunder of *Charles* XII's cannon, who at that time beſieged *Frederickſhall*; where that unfortunate monarch ſtained his laurels by an ignominious defeat, and was deprived of his life as well as his crown.*

He

* Mr. Wraxall, in his entertaining and inſtructive Remarks, lately made in a Tour through ſome of the Northern parts of Europe, after giving a few pertinent and judicious obſervations on the Death of the famous Charles XII. King of Sweden, and on Voltaire's inconſiſtent account of that extraordinary and dark tranſaction, concludes:

"I aſked Count Liewen, an ancient nobleman, if he remembered that monarch's death, and would favour me with the particulars of it. He gave me the fulleſt anſwer to this queſtion; which, as it is perhaps the moſt authentic and indiſputable authority to be procured, I ſhall repeat, as nearly as my memory aſſiſts me, in his own words.

"There are now very few men alive, ſaid he, who can ſpeak with ſo much certainty to that point as myſelf. I was in the camp before Frederickſhall, and had the honour to ſerve the king in quality of page, on that night when he was killed. I have no doubt he was aſſaſſinated. The night was extremely dark, and it was almoſt an impoſſibility that a ball from the fort could enter his head at a diſtance, and on the ſpot where he ſtood. I ſaw the king's body, and am certain the wound in his temple was made by a piſtol bullet. Who gave it, is unknown. Siker was ſuſpected, becauſe he was not with his majeſty previous to the blow, but appeared a moment after. Thoſe, added he, who are uſed to military affairs, know the report and noiſe which a cannon ball makes: but the report of the ſhot which deſtroyed the king, was that of a piece cloſe at hand, and totally different. I do not believe the prince of Heſſe was concerned, or privy to it, in any degree; but the belief that he was put to death by a private hand, was general in the army at that time."

He was diſappointed of viſiting that country by this circumſtance, as the *Swediſh* army was particularly aſſiduous in confining ſtrangers, and thoſe who could not give a good account of themſelves when they happened to meet with them. But notwithſtanding all his precaution, he was confined by the *Daniſh* guard, who erroneouſly ſuppoſed him a ſpy employed by the enemy to obtain intelligence of their deſigns. However, by procuring teſtimonials of his innocence, a releaſe was granted.

In *July* he embarked for *England*, but the ſhip, on its arrival at *Scilly*, was detained by contrary winds. During his confinement here, his leiſure time was chiefly taken up with fiſhing, and ſuch other amuſements as his ſituation would admit of; and was not a little delighted with the vaſt cliffs of that romantic iſland, and the harſh clamours of its feathered inhabitants. Soon after his arrival in *London*, he retired to his native place, where he ſpent the winter. But being deſirous of viſiting *France*, went by way of *Dieppe* to *Paris*, in 1719; and having ſeen its curioſities, took a lodging in a village called *Greencourt*, in the great park of *Verſailles*: but to his no ſmall mor-

tification, the menagery, at that time, had no living creature in it; the court not reſiding there in the king's minority, the famous collection of animals, &c. had been neglected, and all dead or diſperſed.

The pompous cavalcades, and expoſition of reliques, in the ſeveral churches and religious houſes, excited his attention; and the labours of the ſculptor and painter, in the public buildings, claimed his admiration.

During his ſtay in *France*, he made two journies of one hundred miles each; the firſt to *Chalons* in *Champagne*, in *May* 1720; the ſecond on foot to *Orleans* and *Blois*, in a diſguiſed habit, with a view to eſcape thoſe ſons of rapine, who often make their depredations on travellers. An edict happened at that time to be unfortunately iſſued, to ſecure vagrants, in order to tranſport themſelves to America, as the banks of the *Miſſiſippi* wanted population; and our author narrowly eſcaped a weſtern voyage.

On his arrival in *Britain*, Mr. EDWARDS cloſely purſued his favourite ſtudy of Natural Hiſtory; applying himſelf to drawing and colouring ſuch animals as fell

fell under his notice. A ſtrict attention to natural, more than pictureſque beauty claimed his earlieſt care: Birds firſt engaged his particular attention; and having purchaſed ſome of the beſt pictures of theſe ſubjects, he was induced to make a few drawings of his own; which were admired by the curious, who encouraged our young naturaliſt to proceed, by paying a good price for his early labours.

Among his firſt patrons and benefactors may be mentioned JAMES THEOBALDS, Eſq; of *Lambeth*; a gentleman zealous for the promotion of ſcience. Our artiſt, thus unexpectedly encouraged, increaſed in ſkill and aſſiduity, and procured, by his application to his favourite purſuit, a decent ſubſiſtence, and a large acquaintance. However, he remitted his induſtry in 1731, when, in company of two of his relations, he made an excurſion to *Holland* and *Brabant*, where he collected ſeveral ſcarce books and prints, and had an opportunity to examine the original pictures of ſeveral great maſters at *Antwerp*, *Bruſſels*, *Utretch*, and other great cities.

In *December* 1733, by the recommendation of the great Sir HANS SLOANE, Bart. preſident of the college

lege of phyſicians, he was choſen librarian, and had apartments in the college. This office was peculiarly agreeable to his taſte and inclination, as he had the opportunity of a conſtant recourſe to a valuable library, filled with ſcarce and curious books on the ſubjects of natural hiſtory, which he ſo aſſiduouſly ſtudied. By degrees he became one of the moſt eminent ornithologiſts in this, or any other country. His merit is ſo well known in this reſpect, as to render any eulogium on his performances unneceſſary: but it may be obſerved, that he never truſted to others what he could perform himſelf; and often found it ſo difficult to give ſatisfaction to his own mind, that he frequently made three or four drawings to delineate the object in its moſt lively character, attitude, and repreſentation.

In 1743 the firſt volume of the Hiſtory of Birds was publiſhed in Quarto, on royal paper, containing ſixty one birds, and two quadrupeds, moſt of which had neither been delineated nor deſcribed, engraved on fifty two plates from original drawings, exactly coloured, with full and accurate deſcriptions.

This volume is dedicated to the preſident and fellows of the royal college of Phyſicians, whoſe favours

and

aſſiſtance he moſt gratefully acknowledges. The deſcription was publiſhed likewiſe in the *French* language, for the uſe of foreigners, as is that of the ſucceeding volumes.

His ſubſcribers exceeding even his moſt ſanguine expectation, a ſecond volume appeared in 1747, dedicated to Sir HANS SLOANE, then phyſician to his Majeſty, whoſe merit as a naturaliſt is well known, both in our own and foreign nations, and whoſe friendſhip to our author imprinted indelibly on his breaſt the warmeſt impreſſions of gratitude. This volume contains ſixty one birds and two quadrupeds, engraved on fifty two copper plates, with deſcriptions.

The third volume publiſhed in 1750, contains the ſame number of plates, and fifty nine birds, dedicated to the preſident, council, and fellows of the Roy- Society.

In 1751 the fourth volume came from the preſs, containing thirty ſeven plates, on which are engraved thirty nine birds, and ſixteen plates of ſerpents, fiſhes, and inſects.

This volume, being the laſt he intended to publiſh at that time, he ſeems to have conſidered it as the moſt perfect of his productions in Natural Hiſtory; and therefore devoutly offered it up to the great God of Nature, in humble gratitude for all the good things he had received from him in this world.

Our author, in 1758, continued his labours under a new title, *viz.* GLEANINGS OF NATURAL HISTORY, exhibiting ſeventy different birds, fiſhes, inſects, and plants, moſt of which were before non-deſcripts, coloured from nature, on fifty copper plates, dedicated to the truſtees of the Britiſh Muſeum. This volume was accompanied with a *French* tranſlation upon the ſame page oppoſite the Engliſh---in the former volumes the deſcriptions in French were printed ſeparate.

A ſecond volume of the GLEANINGS was publiſhed in 1760, containing fifty plates and deſcriptions, as well as engravings of one hundred animals and plants. Our Naturaliſt dedicated this volume to the Earl of BUTE.

The third part, which made the ſeventh and laſt volume

volume of his works, appeared in 1764, which he dedicated to Earl FERRERS, (then Captain SHIRLEY) as an acknowledgment for his kind aſſiſtance in contributing a great number of birds intended for Madam POMPADOUR, and taken by the Captain in a *French* Prize. This part contains eighty five different ſubjects, deſigned, engraved, and coloured after nature, on fifty two plates.

Thus our Author, after a long ſeries of years, the moſt ſtudious application, and the moſt extenſive correſpondence to every quarter of the world, concluded a work which contains, engravings and deſcriptions of more than ſix hundred ſubjects in Natural Hiſtory, not before deſcribed or delineated. He likewiſe added a generical Index in *French* and *Engliſh*, which is now perfectly compleated with the *Linnæan* names, by that great Naturaliſt LINNÆUS himſelf, who frequently honoured him with his friendſhip and correſpondence *.

Upon

* The following letter bears the ſtrongeſt teſtimony of the high eſteem the great Profeſſor had for Mr. EDWARDS, as well as friendſhip for his own pupil the ingenious Dr. SOLANDER:

Viro nobiliſſimo Domino G. EDWARDO, *Ornithologo ſummo,*
ſ. p. d. CAR. LINNÆUS, *Eques.*

" Has tibi, vir nobiliſſime, traditurus literas D. DAN. SOLANDER,
" meus totus eſt; hic in animum induxit Angliam adire, ut in naturæ
" cognitione

Upon finiſhing the work, we find the following declaration, or rather remarkable petition of the author,

" cognitione proficiat apud nobiliſſimos Anglos, apud quos hæc ſcientia
" hodie unice floret. Imprimis vero tua authoritas eum allicuit, qui ſum-
" mum ſuum habet oblectamentum in animalium hiſtoriâ. Eſt imbutus
" varia cognitione zoologica, ſed ut verum fateor minus in ornithologicis
" verſatus, quam in reliquis partibus: te itaque præceptorem colere avi-
" diſſimus eſt. Fac pro tua in me amicitia quantum poteris, ut in his
" proficiat; ego ſpondeo eum eſſe et fore moribus honeſtiſſimis, anima
" candidiſſima gratiſſima et ingenio acutiſſimo; et niſi me omnia fallent,
" poſt noſtra fata, aliquando ſummus hiſtoricus naturalis per Europam,
" modo D. T. O. ipſi vitam largiatur, pro ut ipſi dederit voluptatem guſ-
" tandi has delicias. In noſtra patria deficiunt naturæ gazæ; ipſa urbs
" Londinenſis, ſola ſcatet pluribus quam tota Europa. Si te benefactorem
" et Mæcenatem obtineat, facile ipſi oſtendas pleraque eorum, quæ apud
" voſtrates occurrunt. Plantas, et inſecta, et conchilia plura novit; ideam
" ſcientiæ hauſit; mentis acumine pollet, ut aptus ſit diſcipulus. Si a-
" liquando quis veſtratum ad me perveniat, omnia ipſi tua commendatione
" præſtabo, quæ huic præſtas: ſcias enim omnia officia quæ in hunc con-
" feras, in me collata eſſe et tamque in filium proprium. Miſiſſem lu-
" bentiſſime cum eo aliquot exuvias avium, ſed profectus equo nequit
" ulla ratione ſalvas ſecum ducere. Qui te videre nequeo quotidie
" imaginem tuam in pariete ſuſpenſam intueor gratiſſima mente, quod
" tam pulchras naturæ gazas oculis mortalium expoſuiſti primus et facilè
" unicus. Nullus certe adhuc præſtitit quod tu in pulcherrimis omnium
" avibus; nullus facile præſtabit in poſterum ſimile opus; lætor quod hæc
" potui propriis intueri oculis.—Servet te Deus in ornamentum artis.

Dabam Upſaliæ, 1759, *c.* 12 *Aprilis.*

" Quæſo commendes meum SOLANDRUM apud D. D. RUSSEL, cui
" devotiſſima mea dicas.—Utinam etiam poſſes eum commendere apud
" præfectos muſei SLOANEI, ut videret Paradiſum illud terreſtre."

In

author, where he ſeems afraid that his paſſions for his favourite ſubject of Natural Hiſtory, ſhould get the better of nobler purſuits, *viz.* the contemplation of his Maker.

" My petition to God (if petitions to God are not
" preſumptuous) is, that he would remove from me
" all deſire of purſuing Natural Hiſtory, or any o-
" ther ſtudy; and inſpire me with as much know-
" ledge of his divine nature as my imperfect ſtate is
" capable off; that I may conduct myſelf, for the
" remainer of my days, in a manner moſt agree-
" able to his will, which muſt conſequently be moſt
" happy to myſelf. What my condition may be in
" futurity is known only to the wiſe diſpoſer of all
" things; yet my preſent deſires are (perhaps vain

" and

In a ſubſequent letter is the following remarkable paſſage:

Amico Sincero Do. EDWARDO.

ſ. p. d. CAR. LINNÆUS.

—" Gratulor tibi de tot pulchris, tamque infinitis avibus rariſſimis, quot
" nullus umquam detexit nec umquam detegat, minus umquam tam vivede
" delineabit, in quibus nil deficit niſi cantus: hæ tamen decantabunt no-
" men, famamque tuam, tamdiu aves exiſtant, et cum iis homines. Tu
" per has ſeculi noſtri ornamentum immortale evaſiſti. Vive diu felix, et
" me inter ſinceros tuos cultores, numera. Saluta amicos meos omnes ac
" ſingulos honeſtiſſimos Anglos naturæ cultores."

Upſaliæ, 1764, *d.* 13 *April.*

" and inconſiſtant with the nature of things!) that I
" may become an intelligent ſpirit, void of groſs
" matter, gravity and levity, endowed with a vo-
" luntary motive power, either to pierce infinitely
" into boundleſs etherial ſpace, or into ſolid bodies;
" to ſee and know, how the parts of the great Uni-
" verſe are connected with each other, and by what
" amazing mechaniſm they are put and kept in re-
" gular, and perpetual motion. But, oh vain and
" daring preſumption of thought! I moſt humbly
" ſubmit my future exiſtence to the ſupreme will of
" the one omnipotent!"

He communicated ſome papers upon natural hiſtory to the Philoſophical Tranſactions, and other periodical publications. And in the prefaces and introductions to many of his volumes, are contained ſome curious and ingenious eſſays on different ſubjects of natural hiſtory, and other miſcellanious ſubjects; likewiſe a brief and general idea of drawing and painting in water colours, with inſtructions for etching on copper plates, and reflexions on the paſſage of birds. Which eſſays, &c. ſince the completion of his works, have been ſelected and publiſhed in one volume octavo.

Some

Some time after Mr. EDWARDS had been appointed library keeper to the Royal College of Phyſicians, he was, on St. *Andrews* day in the year 1750, preſented with an honorary compliment by the preſident and council of the Royal Society, with the gold medal, the donation of Sir GODFREY COPLEY, Bart. annually given on that day to the author of any new diſcovery in art or nature, in conſideration of his Natural Hiſtory juſt then compleated. A copy of this medal he had afterwards engraved and placed under the general title in the firſt volume of his Hiſtory *. He was a few years afterwards elected Fellow of the Royal Society, and of the Society of Antiquaries *London*, and alſo a member of many of the academies of ſciences and learning in different parts of *Europe*. In compliment to theſe honorary diſtinctions from ſuch learned bodies, he preſented elegant coloured copies of all his works, to the Royal College of Phyſicians, the Royal Society, the Society of Antiquarians, and to the Britiſh Muſeum; alſo to the Royal Accademy of Sciences at *Paris*, from whom he received the moſt polite and obliging letter of thanks by their then ſecretary Monſieur DEFOUCHY.

The

* A Deſcription of this Medal is given behind the title in the firſt volume of his works.

The nobility and gentry frequently honoured him with their friendſhip and generous ſupport; and he mentions with peculiar pleaſure being patroniſed by four great men, who were perhaps the greateſt promoters of learning, ſcience and arts, of any in the preſent age. Theſe were the late Duke of RICHMOND, Sir HANS SLOANE, Dr. MEAD, and MARTIN FOLKES, Eſq;*

His

* The following characters of theſe four eminent perſonages is given in his own words:

" The DUKE, noble in his lineage, and deſcent from the royal " houſe of theſe kingdoms; but ſtill more noble and great from the innate " magnificience, generoſity, and goodneſs of his ſoul. Though by his " high offices, his time was taken up by the important affairs of the pub- " lic, yet his doors were always open to men of learning, ſcience, and in- " genuity."

" The ſecond was the good Sir HANS SLOANE, Bart. who employed " me, for a great number of years, in drawing miniature figures of ani- " mals, &c. after nature, in water colours, to encreaſe his very great col- " lection of fine drawings by other hands; which drawings are now all " fixed in the Britiſh Muſeum, for the help and information of thoſe in fu- " ture generations, that may be curious or ſtudious in natural hiſtory. Sir " HANS, in the decline of his life, left *London*, and retired to his manor " houſe at *Chelſea*, where he reſided about fourteen years before he died. " After his retirement to *Chelſea*, he requeſted it as a favour to him, " (though I embraced his requeſt as an honour done to myſelf) that I " would viſit him every week, in order to divert him, for an hour or two, " with the common news of the town, and with any thing particular that " ſhould happen amongſt his acquaintance of the Royal Society, and other

" ingenious

His collection of drawings, which amounted to upwards of nine hundred, were purchaſed by the Earl of

" ingenious gentlemen, many of whom I was weekly converſant with;
" and I ſeldom miſſed drinking coffee with him on a *Saturday*, during the
" whole time of his retirement at *Chelſea*. He was ſo infirm as to be
" wholly confined to his houſe, except ſometimes, though rarely, taking
" a little air in his garden in a wheeled chair: and this confinement made
" him very deſirous to ſee any of his old acquaintance to amuſe him. Dur-
" ing this latter part of his life, he was frequently petitioned for charity
" by ſome decayed branches of families of eminent men, late of his ac-
" quaintance, who were famous for their learned works, &c. which pe-
" titions he always received, and conſidered with attention; and, provided
" they were not found fraudulent, they were always anſwered by his cha-
" ritable donations. He has often deſired that I would enquire into the
" merits of ſuch petitioners; and, if found ſatisfactory, he commiſſioned
" me to convey his bounty to the diſtreſſed.—The laſt time I ſaw him, I
" was greatly ſurpriſed and concerned to find ſo good a man in the agonies
" of death; this was on the tenth day of January 1753, at four o'clock
" in the afternoon: he died on the eleventh, at four in the morning. I
" continued with him later than any one of his relations, but was obliged
" to retire, his laſt agonies being beyond what I could bear; though, un-
" der his pain and weakneſs of body, he ſeemed to retain a great firmneſs
" of mind, and reſignation to the will of God.

" The third of my patrons was the great RICHARD MEAD, M. D.
" He was certainly magnanimous beyond the common meaſure, and de-
" ſerved the title of Great in as extenſive a ſenſe as any man in his ſtation
" could do. He, as well as Sir HANS SLOANE, died in the higheſt ſta-
" tions of phyſic they could arrive at, viz. Phyſicians in Ordinary to the
" King. Dr. MEAD, indeed, never was at the head of the College of
" Phyſicians of *London*, but it was becauſe he always abſolutely declin-
" ed it; for he hath been elected into that honourable ſtation, but never

of BUTE, who would confer a favour on poſterity by publiſhing engravings from them, as they contain a great

" could be perſuaded to accept of it. His perſonal ſervice, his ample for-
" tune, his houſe, and every thing in his power, always contributed, in
" the moſt extenſive manner, to the promotion of learning, ſcience, arts,
" mechanics, and, in ſhort, every thing that tended to the public benefit
" and honour of his country, or was of uſe to particular members of the
" community he lived in. In ſhort, his generoſity was ſo diffuſive, that
" he may be juſtly deemed a benefactor to the whole community; whilſt,
" inſtead of hoarding up that great wealth his practice gained, to raiſe a
" vaſt eſtate, as he might eaſily have done, his public ſpirit was uncon-
" fined, and he was contented to leave behind him a moderate fortune
" only. The worthy Dr. ASKEW, from a laudable veneration for the me-
" mory and public character of ſo great a patron of learning, &c. cauſ-
" ed a fine marble buſt of him to be made by one of the moſt eminent
" ſculptors of the preſent age, which is placed in the College of Phyſici-
" ans, London. And, on this occaſion, I cannot help informing ſucceed-
" ing generations, that they may ſee the real features of Dr. MEAD in
" this ſaid buſt; for I, who was as well acquainted with his face as
" any one living, do pronounce this buſt of him to be ſo like, that, as
" often as I ſee it, my mind is filled with the ſtrongeſt idea of the ori-
" ginal.

" MARTIN FOLKES, Eſq; the laſt of my deceaſed principal patrons,
" was a friend and intimate acquaintance of the other three. He had
" made the grand tour of *Europe*, not in the younger part of life, but
" after his marriage. He travelled with part of his family and ſervants, at
" a proper age to make juſt obſervations, and gather all the commendable
" parts of the learning, cuſtoms, and manners of the countries through
" which he paſſed, in order to refine and poliſh thoſe of his own. He
" travelled not in haſte, as is the general cuſtom; but proceeded ſlowly,
" and ſpent what time was neceſſary to inform himſelf of all that was

" worth

great number of Engliſh as well as foreign birds and other animals hitherto not accurately delineated or deſcribed.

After

" worth notice: and, indeed, he ſeemed to have attained to univerſal " knowledge; for, in the many opportunities I have had of being in his " company, almoſt every part of ſcience has happened to be the ſubject " of diſcourſe, all of which he handled as an adept in each. He was a " man of great politeneſs in his manners, free from all pedantry and pride, " and, in every reſpect, the real unaffected fine gentleman.

" The loſs of four perſonages, ſo truly noble, ſo good, ſo great, and every " way ſo highly accompliſhed, in the ſmall ſpace of three or four years, " was an event that greatly humbled me. I imagined, that, after ſuch " a loſs to arts and ſciences in general, and to myſelf in particular, all " endeavours to excel in any branch of knowledge would be fruitleſs, and " of little avail to its author, for want of eminent men to inſpire the " riſing generation; and I thought of diſcontinuing any farther progreſs " in natural hiſtory: but the national ſpirit for the promotion of learning " and arts, in the eſtabliſhment of that grand repoſitory and immenſe fund " of ſcience, the Britiſh Muſeum, has, in ſome meaſure, revived the paſſion " for learning and uſeful knowledge; and I hope theſe ſeeds, ſown by " public authority, cheriſhed and protected by a PRINCE diſtinguiſhed for " virtue and learning, will take root, ſpring up, and yield a plentiful har- " veſt.

" The Britiſh Muſeum reminds me of a brief catalogue of the natural " and artificial ſubjects contained in it, which Sir HANS SLOANE ſhewed " me about a year before he died, and permitted me to take a copy of; " and, as I believe, though it is ſo very general, it may, for want of a " more perfect one, be acceptable to the reader, and is as follows:

An

After the publication of the laſt work, being arrived at his ſeventieth year, he found his ſight begin

An account of the names and numbers of the ſeveral ſpecies of things contained in the Muſeum of Sir HANS SLOANE, *Bart. and which, ſince his death, are placed for the uſe of the public in the Britiſh Muſeum.*

The library, including books of drawings, manuſcripts, & prints, amounting to about	vol. 50000	Echini, echinites, &c.	659
Medals and coins, ancient and modern	23000	Aſteriæ, trochi, entrochi, &c.	241
Cameos and intaglios. about	700	Cruſtaceæ, crabs, lobſters, &c.	363
Seals, &c.	268	Stellæ marinæ, ſtar-fiſhes, &c.	173
Veſſels, &c. of agate, jaſper, &c.	542	Fiſhes, and their parts	1555
Antiquities	1125	Birds, and their parts, eggs and neſts of different ſpecies	1172
Precious ſtones, agates, jaſpers, &c.	2256	Quadrupeds, &c.	1886
Metals, minerals, ores, &c.	2725	Vipers, ſerpents, &c.	521
Cryſtals, ſpars, &c.	1864	Inſects, &c. - -	5439
Foſſils, flints, ſtones, &c.	1275	Vegetables -	12506
Earths, ſands, ſalts, &c.	1035	Hortus ſiccus, or volumes of dried plants	334
Bitumens, ſulphurs, ambers, &c.	399	Humana, as calculi, anatomical preparations, &c.	756
Talcs, micæ, &c.	388	Miſcellaneous things, natural, &c.	2098
Corals, ſponges, &c.	1421	Mathematical inſtruments	55
Teſtacea, or ſhells, &c.	5843	Pictures and drawings framed	471

" Every ſingle particular of all the above articles are numbered, and " entered by name, with ſhort accounts of them, and references to ſeve- " ral authors who have heretofore wrote about them, in thirty-eight vo- " lumes

gin to fail, and his hand loſt its wonted ſteadineſs. He retired from public employment, to a little houſe which he purchaſed at *Plaiſtow*; previous to which, he diſpoſed of all the copies, as well as plates, of his works. †* The converſation of a few ſelect friends,

" lumes in folio, and eight in quarto. Some addition has been made to " this valuable collection ſince it was depoſited in Montague-houſe, eſpe- " cially to the foſſils, by a valuable preſent from GUSTAVUS BRANDER, " Eſq;

Beſides the above catalogue of natural productions, his library conſiſted of more than 50,000 vols. 350 of which with plates drawn and coloured after nature—3566 Manuſcripts in various languages.

†* *College of Phyſicians, Warwick-Lane, May 1ſt, 1769.*

To the Nobility, Gentry, and Curious in general.

Having this day ſold and delivered to Mr. JAMES ROBSON, Bookſeller, in New Bond Street, all the remaining copies of my Natural Hiſtory, in ſeven volumes quarto, coloured under my own immediate inſpection, together with all my copper-plates, letter-preſs, and every article in my poſſeſſion relative to it. I have thought it a duty incumbent upon me, in juſtice to the public, as well as to the purchaſer, to declare, that all future publications of the ſaid Natural Hiſtory are the ſole right and property of Mr. ROBSON: and that my labours may be handed down to poſterity, with integrity, truth, and exactneſs, I have delivered into his hands a complete ſet of the plates, highly coloured by myſelf, as a ſtandard to thoſe Artiſts who may be employed in colouring them for the future.

friends, and the perusal of a few select books, were the amusement of the evening of his life; and now and then he made an excursion to some of the principal cities in *England*. *

During his recess, he delineated some scarce animals, particularly the *Siyah Ghush*, † or black ear; an engraving

As the remainder of my life will be spent chiefly in retirement, I beg leave to return my most grateful acknowledgments to the nobility, gentry, and public in general, for all their favours and generous support during the tedious Period of all my publications; and I am, with the greatest truth and respect,

their faithful, and obliged humble servant,

GEORGE EDWARDS.

* Particularly to *Bristol*, *Bath*, *Exeter*, and *Norwich*.

† A species of Cat with a long face and small head, long black ears, very hairy, nose reddish, body reddish brown, tail long, belly and breast inclined to white.

Dr. SHAW, p. 175 of his travels, says the Arabic, Persian, and Turkish names of this animal signify the *black ear'd Cat*. In the night, *when all the beasts of the forest do move*, these as well as other wild quadrupeds are prowling after sustenance; and *when the sun ariseth, and the Lion getteth away to his den*, both the black Cat and the Jackall have often been found gnawing such carcases as the Lion is supposed to have fed upon the night before. It is a native of *Persia*, *India*, and *Barbary*, and may be rendered tame and useful in the Chace. Dr. CHARLETON mentions that one killed

engraving of which from his drawing, may be found in Dr. SHARP's edition of the *Syntagma Diſſertationum* of Dr. THOMAS HYDE.

He alſo made a drawing and engraving of the *Argus* or *Luen*, one of the larger ſpecies of pheaſant, a native of the north of *China*, from a preſerved bird tranſmitted to Dr. FOTHERGILL. The copper-plate deſigned for the philoſophical tranſactions was unfortunately loſt; but an impreſſion, coloured by the author, is now in the hands of the preſent proprietor of his works. He made drawings during his retirement at *Plaiſtow* of the *Keſtril*, a ſpecies of hawk found in hollow trees, and ruined buildings in *England*, which the reader will find deſcribed in the Britiſh Zoology, by the ingenious Mr. PENNANT, with whom our author had a long uninterrupted friendſhip and correſpondence:

led a hound and tore it to pieces in a moment, notwithſtanding the dog made a vigorous defence.

Arabian writers call it *Anak* el *Ard:* inform us it hunts like the Panther and purſues Cranes in their flight.

dence: and of the Snake killer* of the Indies, from the living bird belonging to Captain RAYMOND, at *Valentines* in *Eſſex*, and which he gave a deſcription of in the above mentioned collection of the Royal Society.

He left an edition of WILLOUGHBY's Ornithology with MS. notes, and many curious obſervations. In theſe notes he corrected the miſtakes and ſupplied the omiſſions of former writers. They are ſoon intended to be given to the public who has ſo generously encouraged his former labors.

He

* The *Dutch* call it *Slang eater* from the avidity with which it devours Snakes; three birds of this ſpecies were brought to this kingdom from the Cape of Good Hope. One of them meaſured three feet from the extremities to the crown of the head; the eye is bright and piercing, ſurrounded with yellow, which in the fore part extends to the bill: the feathers of the thigh, the point of the wings, and the extremity of the tail, are black, the reſt white or light grey; the feathers which extend from the head and neck, are no ſmall ornament to the bird.

The natives of the ſouthern promontory of *Africa*, ſay that in the inland parts of that continent, this ſingular bird is held in high veneration. Some aſſert it is the Ibis of the antients; but perhaps that opinion has little to confirm it. Joſephus relates on no very authentic grounds, that Moſes preſerved his army from a multitude of deſtroying ſerpents by means of the Iris, of which he collected numbers in his travels. Captain PURVIS introduced the Snake eater into *England*, in one of the India Company's Ships in 1759.

Some time before his death, he diſpoſed of a curious copy of *Catesby's Carolina*, to Mr BARTLET of *Lamb's-Conduit-Street*; the plates were highly coloured by himſelf, and he frequently expreſſed his opinion, that they were equal to the author's original work.

Mr. EDWARDS was of a middle ſtature, rather inclined to corpulence: of a liberal diſpoſition and a chearful converſation. All his acquaintance experienced his benevolent temper, and his poor neighbours frequently partook of his bounty.

His diffidence and humility were always apparent, and to perſons who had a taſte for ſtudies congenial to his own, he was a moſt entertaining as well as communicative companion.

Some years before his death the alarming depredations of a cancer, which baffled all the efforts of phyſical ſkill, deprived him of the ſight of one of his eyes: he alſo ſuffered much from the ſtone, a complaint to which at different periods of life he had been ſubject. Yet it has been remarked, that in the ſevereſt paroxyſms of miſery he was ſcarcely known to utter a ſingle complaint.

Having compleated his eightieth year, emaciated with age and ſickneſs, he died on the 23d of *July* 1773, deſervedly lamented by a numerous acquaintance. He left two ſiſters, to whom he bequeathed the fortune acquired by aſſiduous application to his favourite purſuits; they died lately within a few hours of each other, and were buried together.

His remains were interred in the Church yard of *Weſtham* his native pariſh, where his executors have erected a ſtone, with a plain inſcription to perpetuate to poſterity, his ſkill as an artiſt, and his knowledge as a zoologiſt.

EPITAPH.

Here lies interred,
The Body of GEO. EDWARDS, Eſq; F. R. S.
Who departed this Life the 23d Day of *July* 1773,
Aged 81 Years;
Formerly LIBRARIAN
To the ROYAL COLLEGE of PHYSICIANS
In which Capacity,
As well as in private Life,
He was univerſally
And deſervedly eſteemed.
His NATURAL HISTORY of BIRDS
Will remain
A laſting MONUMENT of his knowledge
And ingenuity.

ADDENDA.

Since the foregoing Sheets were printed off, many Friends and Subſcribers to the late Mr. EDWARDS, have expreſſed a deſire to have the Papers which he communicated to the Royal Society, ſelected from the Philoſophical Tranſactions, and printed together to complete his Natural Hiſtory. The Editor wiſhing to pay every attention to a requeſt from ſuch reſpectable authority, has accordingly given what he could find worthy of notice, from that periodical work: and, in order to render theſe extracts ſtill more acceptable to the Public, he has re-engraved the Plates of all the Subjects therein deſcribed, and they now accompany the publication.

NARROW BEAK'D CROCODILE.

THE NARROW BEAK'D CROCODILE of the *Ganges*, with an open belly, delineated on the plate from our author's drawing, is the *Lacerta (Crocodilus) ventre marſupio donato faucibus Merganſeris roſtrum æmulantibus*. Three of theſe Crocodiles were ſent from *Bengal* about the year 1747, to the late Dr. MEAD, Phyſician in ordinary to the King; two of which he preſerved in his collection, and preſented the third to the late curious Mrs. KENNON; and ſince the deceaſe of theſe worthy perſons, they became the property of Mr. JAMES LEMON of *London*, who obliged Mr. EDWARDS with one of them to produce to the Royal Society. The narrowneſs of the beaks is the moſt extraordinary circumſtance in this crocodile, which appears like the bill of the bird called *Gooſeander (Merganſer)*. It has ſmall ſharp teeth. Another peculiarity is a paunch, or open purſe, in the middle of the underſide of the belly, which ſeems to be naturally formed with round hips, and a hollow within, perhaps to receive its young in the time of danger; as it appears in the American animal, called an *Opoſſum*: Dr. PARSONS gave it as his opinion, that the opening in the belly was really natural, it having no appearance of being cut or torn open. In other reſpects, it hath all the marks common to *Allegators* and *Crocodiles*, viz. particular ſtrong, ſquare ſcales on the back, which in the young ones appear diſtinct and regular, but in the old ones loſe their diſtinct form, and become knobbed and rough, like the bark of an old tree, and in having ſmall round and oval ſcales on the ſides, which in the young ones are no bigger than rape ſeeds, and the belly is ſcaled to appearance a little like the laying of bricks in a building. It has fins on the outſides of its fore and hinder legs, as other *Crocodiles* have. It has alſo a great diſtinguiſhing mark of the *Crocodile* kind, viz. two rows of fins on the upper ſide of the tail, which begin inſenſibly ſmall on the ſetting on of the tail, and increaſes gradually as they advance towards the middle of the tail, where they become

come one row, and ſo they continue to the end: the tail is roundiſh at the beginning, but from the middle, where the two rows of fins become one, it is flat like an oar. The fore feet have each of them five toes; the hinder feet have only four, which is alſo a mark of the *Crocodile*; all the leſſer lizards, which have fallen under our Author's obſervation, having five toes on each of their hinder feet. In the fore and hinder feet the third and fourth toes only are webbed together. The eyes are very prominent, and ſeem to be contrived that they may be carried above the water while the reſt of the animal is wholly under water, in order to watch its prey on the ſurface, or on the banks and ſhores of rivers. The head is covered; the beak finely creaſed tranſverſely; the animal appeared in the ſpirits all over of a yellowiſh olive colour, the under ſide lighter than the upper, the upper ſide having ſome duſky marks and ſpots, as repreſented in the ſame. This ſpecies appears to be non-deſcript; which ſeems the more ſingular, as our *India* Company have been ſo long ſettled at *Bengal*, and the animal is at full growth nearly, if not altogether, as large as the common *Crocodile*.

The FROG FISH of SURINAM.

THE FROG FISH is an animal whoſe ſingularity claims our attention. It is not to be met with in the Britiſh Muſeum, or in any private Engliſh collection, except that of Dr. *Fothergill*. It was brought from Surinam in South America.

In the Appendix to *Merian*'s Natural Hiſtory of the inſects of that country, where ſhe treats of the transformation of fiſhes into frogs, and frogs into fiſhes, after explaining the manner in which the European frog is changed from a diminutive fiſh or tadpole into a perfect frog, ſhe proceeds to deſcribe the gradual transformation of a ſpecies of Frog found in theſe parts into a perfect fiſh, and illuſtrates her deſcription by five figures, from the collection of *Albert Seba* at Amſterdam, to whom ſhe was likewiſe indebted for ſeveral curious hints on this ſubject.

Linneus calls this animal *paradoxa* in his Syſtema Naturæ, p. 212, and quotes the former Edition of that work where it is called *lacerta cauda ancipiti, palmis tetradactylus fiſſis, plantis pentadactylis palmatis abdomine ventrieaſo.*

Merian's figures are ſlightly copied in the annexed plate: ſhe tells us the firſt figure ſhews the perfect frog, brown, yellow, and green, in ſpots, but paler on the belly; the hinder feet webbed like the gooſe, the fore feet without webs: in ſize like the full grown European frog. Her ſecond figure repreſents the firſt transformation by the appearance of a tail; afterwards it gradually aſſumes the ſhape of a fiſh, the two fore feet decreaſing and periſhing by degrees, as is ſhewn *fig.* 3. the decreaſe of the hinder legs is exhibited *fig.* 4. and laſtly, the animal is changed to a fiſh, *fig.* 5.

Both natives and Europeans in that country called theſe fiſhes *jakjés*. They are cartilaginous, of a ſubſtance like our *muſtela*, and exquiſite food; they are formed with regular vertebræ, and ſmall bones all over the body, divided into equal parts; are firſt darkiſh and then grey; their ſcales make a beautiful appearance.

Frogs,

Frogs, both in Aſia and Africa, according to *Merian*, change gradually from fiſhes to frogs as thoſe in Europe, but after many years revert again into fiſhes, tho' the manner of their change has never been inveſtigated.

The ſubject engraven on the plate is of the ſize of life (F G) and greatly exceeds that figured by *Merian* in her hiſtory, p. 71. which leads one to ſuppoſe that it is a different ſpecies. Her figure expreſſes the fin which paſſes round the tail ſcolloped, but in the animal here drawn the fin is perfectly even; the hinder feet in the engraving by that Lady, have only four toes each; but this has five, beſides a ſmall ſubſtance like a toe. The figures (A B C D) are tadpoles received at the ſame time in their different changes from frogs, different from European, and perhaps the ſame deſcribed by *Merian* and *Seba*.

The little tadpoles on the plate (A B C D) are ſpecifically different from the large ones (F G) as is obvious by the difference of their feet: the hinder feet of one of the ſmall ones is magnified at E, which ſhews that the ends of their toes are round and flat on their under ſides, both in the hinder and fore feet: foreward they have four toes on each foot unwebbed; the hinder feet have four toes each, webbed altogether.

Whether this animal is, in its perfect ſtate, a ſpecies of frog with a tail, or a kind of water lizard, requires a greater degree of ſagacity to determine than our Author pretended to: but when its ſize is conſidered, if it ſhould be deemed a tadpole at firſt produced from ſpawn, and in its progreſs towards a frog, ſuch an animal when full grown, if it bears the ſame proportion to its tadpole as thoſe in Europe do, muſt be of enormous ſize, for our full grown frogs exceed the tadpoles at leaſt fifty times.

The ARGUS, or LUEN PHEASANT.

THE ARGUS is a ſpecies of the Pheaſant, the largeſt of that genus yet known, being equal in ſize to a full grown Turkey Cock, from one of the moſt northern provinces of China.

I take it to be a male bird, by the beautiful red ſkin on the fore part of the head, and its fine blue changeable creſt and neck; the females of all the different ſpecies of pheaſants yet diſcovered, having little or no gaudy colours about their heads.

The back is like that of our pheaſant, of a yellowiſh white colour; the fore part of the head and beginning of the throat, are covered with a fine ſcarlet ſkin, ſeemingly void of feathers, but is rough with a kind of grain. The irides of the eyes are orange, coloured more yellow next the pupil, and redder in their outer circumference: the ſkin round the eye is duſky or black; it hath alſo blackiſh marks proceeding from the corners of the mouth; the top and hinder part of the head and neck, are of a fine blue changeable colour; it has a creſt of long looſe feathers, which I ſuppoſe it can raiſe, or lower at pleaſure. The lower part of the neck, the back, and covert feathers of the wings, are covered with black or duſky feathers, having a ſmall broken tranſverſe mixture of rediſh brown. The wings when cloſed, meaſure about ſeventeen inches; though the prime quill falls ſhort of the length of thoſe above them. The wing hath about twenty quills, the outermoſt ſhorteſt, which gradually lengthens to the fifth; the nine outermoſt quills, are of a lightiſh yellow brown, ſpotted with duſky ſpots, of the ſize of tares, except on their inner webs next the ſhafts, where they are of a duſky brown, with white ſpots as ſmall as muſtard ſeeds; the ſhafts of theſe feathers are a lead colour; the eleven remaining quills which characteriſe this bird, are of a darker brown than the foregoing, marked with round and longiſh duſky ſpots on both the inner and the outer webs—What is moſt extraordinary in theſe feathers is that each of them has on the outer web,

web, cloſe adjoining to the ſhaft, a row of very diſtinct ſpots like eyes, ſo ſhaded as to appear imboſt: they are larger and ſmaller as the feathers to the outer quills; they are from twelve to fifteen on each feather; the largeſt eyes are an inch diameter; they are incircled firſt with black, and without that with light brown, their ſhafts are white; the eyes, in the two or three innermoſt quills, are not ſo regularly marked, they loſe their roundneſs and become confuſed. Theſe beautiful eyes are not ſeen unleſs the wings are a little ſpread: the ſingle feathers, of half the natural length, figured in the plate, will give an idea of the eyes and ſpots beyond deſcription. The inner coverts of the wings are brown with black ſpots; the under ſides of the quills are marked like the upper, but fainter coloured; the inner webs edged with light aſh colour, which forms a whitiſh bed within ſide the wing. The throat, breaſt, rump, and covert feathers, on the upper ſide the tail, are of a dull orange colour, with round duſky ſpots; the tail hath fourteen feathers of very unequal lengths, the middlemoſt of each of them three feet long; the next on each ſide eighteen inches, which gradually ſhorten to the outermoſt on each ſide, which are twelve inches; their colour is dusky, with a tincture of light brown: the outer feathers are dotted with white as ſmall as muſtard ſeeds; the next within theſe have larger ſpots, leſs regularly formed; the two long middle feathers have round white ſpots, ſurrounded with black on their outer webs, and larger irregular brown ſpots, ſurrounded with a dusky colour on their inner webs, which are aſh coloured. The lower belly and covered feathers beneath the tail, are dusky with confuſed mixture of brown. The legs and feet are like thoſe of Turkeys, with three toes forward and one backward; the legs, feet, and claws are of a greeniſh aſh colour. The head and legs of this bird were ſupplied from the curious drawing that was ſent from Canton, with the bird's ſkin, to Dr. *Fothergill*, which had neither head nor feet adhering to it.

A wing of this bird, in good preſervation, may be ſeen in Mr. LEVER's *Curious Muſeum* at Leiceſter Houſe.

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THE ARGUS is a ſpecies of the Pheaſant, the largeſt of that genus yet known, being equal in ſize to a full grown Turkey Cock, from one of the moſt northern provinces of China.

I take it to be a male bird, by the beautiful red ſkin on the fore part of the head, and its fine blue changeable creſt and neck; the females of all the different ſpecies of pheaſants yet diſcovered, having little or no gaudy colours about their heads.

The back is like that of our pheaſant, of a yellowiſh white colour; the fore part of the head and beginning of the throat, are covered with a fine ſcarlet ſkin, ſeemingly void of feathers, but is rough with a kind of grain. The irides of the eyes are orange, coloured more yellow next the pupil, and redder in their outer circumference: the ſkin round the eye is duſky or black; it hath alſo blackiſh marks proceeding from the corners of the mouth; the top and hinder part of the head and neck, are of a fine blue changeable colour; it has a creſt of long looſe feathers, which I ſuppoſe it can raiſe, or lower at pleaſure. The lower part of the neck, the back, and covert feathers of the wings, are covered with black or duſky feathers, having a ſmall broken tranſverſe mixture of rediſh brown. The wings when cloſed, meaſure about ſeventeen inches; though the prime quill falls ſhort of the length of thoſe above them. The wing hath about twenty quills, the outermoſt ſhorteſt, which gradually lengthens to the fifth; the nine outermoſt quills, are of a lightiſh yellow brown, ſpotted with duſky ſpots, of the ſize of tares, except on their inner webs next the ſhafts, where they are of a duſky brown, with white ſpots as ſmall as muſtard ſeeds; the ſhafts of theſe feathers are a lead colour; the eleven remaining quills which characteriſe this bird, are of a darker brown than the foregoing, marked with round and longiſh duſky ſpots on both the inner and the outer webs—What is moſt extraordinary in theſe feathers is that each of them has on the outer web,

web, close adjoining to the ſhaft, a row of very diſtinct ſpots like eyes, ſo ſhaded as to appear imboſt: they are larger and ſmaller as the feathers to the outer quills; they are from twelve to fifteen on each feather; the largeſt eyes are an inch diameter; they are incircled firſt with black, and without that with light brown, their ſhafts are white; the eyes, in the two or three innermoſt quills, are not ſo regularly marked, they loſe their roundneſs and become confuſed. Theſe beautiful eyes are not ſeen unleſs the wings are a little ſpread: the ſingle feathers, of half the natural length, figured in the plate, will give an idea of the eyes and ſpots beyond deſcription. The inner coverts of the wings are brown with black ſpots; the under ſides of the quills are marked like the upper, but fainter coloured; the inner webs edged with light aſh colour, which forms a whitiſh bed within ſide the wing. The throat, breaſt, rump, and covert feathers, on the upper ſide the tail, are of a dull orange colour, with round duſky ſpots; the tail hath fourteen feathers of very unequal lengths, the middlemoſt of each of them three feet long; the next on each ſide eighteen inches, which gradually ſhorten to the outermoſt on each ſide, which are twelve inches; their colour is dusky, with a tincture of light brown: the outer feathers are dotted with white as ſmall as muſtard ſeeds; the next within theſe have larger ſpots, leſs regularly formed; the two long middle feathers have round white ſpots, ſurrounded with black on their outer webs, and larger irregular brown ſpots, ſurrounded with a dusky colour on their inner webs, which are aſh coloured. The lower belly and covered feathers beneath the tail, are dusky with confuſed mixture of brown. The legs and feet are like thoſe of Turkeys, with three toes forward and one backward; the legs, feet, and claws are of a greeniſh aſh colour. The head and legs of this bird were ſupplied from the curious drawing that was ſent from Canton, with the bird's ſkin, to Dr. *Fothergill*, which had neither head nor feet adhering to it.

A wing of this bird, in good preſervation, may be ſeen in Mr. LEVER's *Curious Muſeum* at Leiceſter Houſe.

The SNAKE EATER.

THIS Bird is of a new genus, and the only one ſpecies of it hitherto to come to my knowledge; it is about the bigneſs of a heron and crane kind, except the neck is a little ſhorter. On firſt ſight I thought the bird belonged to that genus; but on a cloſer view, I judged it to be no wader in the water; for though the legs are as long, or longer than in herons, &c. yet they are feathered down to the knees, which we do not find in birds who wade in ſhallow waters to ſeek their food. The toes of this bird are alſo much ſhorter than they are in herons; ſo that I think it muſt be placed amongſt land birds. The bill is exactly like thoſe of hawks, and other birds of prey; which is the only inſtance I have diſcovered in any of the long legged kind of birds. The talons or claws are ſmall, and unfit for a bird of prey; and the eyes are of a dark colour, placed in ſpaces covered with a bare ſkin of an orange colour, on each ſide of the head. It hath a beautiful creſt, compoſed of many long painted feathers, tipped with black, hanging backwards. The beak, head, neck, back, breaſt, and upper covert feathers of the wings, are of a bluiſh aſh colour, rather lighter on the breaſt than on the back. The belly, thighs, the greater wing feathers and tail are black, the tail feathers being tipped with white: the legs and feet are of a reddiſh fleſh colour, and the claws black.

This bird was called a *Snake Eater* by thoſe who brought it over from India; and I believe it may prey upon ſmall ſerpents, lizards, and other reptiles. Another bird was brought with this, ſuppoſed to be the male, which died ſoon after it landed; it was ſomething larger, and the creſt longer, the head black, but in other reſpects the birds were alike.

Mr. *Voſmaer*, keeper of the Statholder's muſeum at the Hague, calls it the *Sagittarius* from the Cape of Good Hope: and in one of his publications at Amſterdam, in the year 1769, has given a print of it, coloured after nature. It ſeems to feed equally on fleſh or fiſh, which accounts for his uniting the character of birds of prey, and of waders in water.

SIYAH GHUSH.

To Dr. SHAW's *Account of this Animal (vid. Note p. 22.) we ſhall give Dr.* HYDE's *Account of it in his* Syntagma Diſſertationum, *tom.* 1. *p.* 36. *where it is figured by Mr.* EDWARDS, *from a Drawing of the late Dr.* GREGORY SHARPE, *Maſter of the Temple.*

A *Nák al Ard* eſt animal illud quod in Perſide vocatur *Siyâh Ghûſh:* in Perſide canem magnitudinem excedit; aures ejus ſunt nigræ, & proprius color eſt rufus. In libro *Mu'gijzat Phârſi* (eſt ſc. hiſtoria naturalis Perſicé cum iconibus) exhibetur hujus animalis icon, quæ, ſi pictoris fides ſatis exacté leporem refert; niſi quod moles ſit undique major, corpus craſſius, & cauda ac pedes ad proportionem longiores. Et in eodem libero ſequens deſcriptio extat.—*Anâk* Perſicé dicunt *Siyâh Ghûſh*, eſt que animal pulcherrimum cane majus: Aures ejus ſunt nigræ, et color ejus eſt coloris cameli pilis ſubrufis: Venari ſolet eodem modo ac pardus; et quando incedit, efficit ut veſtigia pedum ſuorum diſpareant. Solet venari grues, quas, quando avolare conantur, in aerem ſoliendo captat. Animal iſtud Perſicé, etiam alio nomine vocatur *Pervânek*, unde Arabicum *Phuránek*. Inſigni ſagacitate præditum eſt, & inſtinctu quodam naturæ prædam leoni præſentit; & ſuo latratu, vel alio modo leoni, ſi quis ſit in vicimâ renunciat. Cumque leo ſaturatus, diſcedit, famulus iſte ex reliquiis prædæ convivari ſolet: nunquam veró leoni accedit, ne fortaſſis ipſius præda tandem fiat.

ADDENDA *to the Account of the* SERVICE TREE, *plate* 211.

SORBUS DOMESTICA. *Linnæi ſpecies plant.*

Sorbus Bauhin, hiſt. I. 59.—*Gerard. Emend.* 1471.—*Raii, hiſt. plant.* 1456. —*Sativa Bauh. pin.* 415.—*Sorbus legitima, Cluſ. hiſt.* I. *p.* 10.—*Parkinſon* 1420.—*A. Gouan Flora Monſpeliaca,* 253.—*Sorbus foliis pennatis ſubtus tomentoſis. Hall. Helv.* 351.—*Du Hamel traité des arbres & arbuſtes qui ſe cultivent en plein terre, tom.* 2. *p.* 271.—*Hudſoni Flora Anglica, p.* 188.

The True SERVICE or SORB.——*La CORME ou SORBE.*

THIS tree is moſt common in Italy and Germany, but is found likewiſe in ſeveral parts of France. It grows ſpontaneouſly in ſome places in this iſland, particularly in the mountainous parts of Cornwall, as well as the moorlands of Staffordſhire, * and ſometimes is cultivated in gardens in the neighbourhood of London. Its ſingular beauty may recommend it to the notice of landed gentlemen, who often ornament their grounds with foreign plants, and exclude at the ſame time indigenous ſhrubs equally beautiful as well as uſeful. Froſt does not ſeem to injure it; the ſevere winter of 1709, which deſtroyed ſuch multitudes of plants on the Continent, is ſaid to have ſpared the Sorbus. Our Author, in the deſcription of plate 211. *(Gleanings, P.* I. *p.* 1.*)* ſuppoſes this tree unknown to botaniſts. His favourite ſtudy appears to have wholly engroſſed his attention, that he ſeldom peruſed their writings, or was acquainted himſelf with their diſcoveries; for long before Mr. *Edwards* publiſhed his Natural Hiſtory, a certain magiſtrate of Worceſter† addreſſed

* Amat loca humida, montana & frigidis proxima, & ſolum pinguiſſimum. *Raii hiſt. plant.* 1456.

† *Edward Pitt*, Eſq; alderman of that city. *See Philoſophical Tranſactions, No.* 139. *p.* 178.

addreſſed a letter to the Royal Society on this ſubject. Even our indefatigable countryman Mr. *Ray*, when he publiſhed his hiſtory of plants, appears to have been ignorant that the *Sorbus* was ever found wild in this iſland, * tho' ſome years after the publication of that work he altered his opinion, it having been diſcovered by *Walter Moyle*, Eſq; in Cornwall. The error is retracted in the laſt edition of his *Synopſis*. **

The beautiful appearance of the fruit is well known, and it is ſerved up at tables in France as one of the ornaments of the deſſert, and is ſaid to have an agreeable taſte, ſomewhat ſimilar to the Medlar. Its aſtringent property has given it a place in the *materia medica*; † but amid a variety of foreign medicines, it appears now a mere expletive. Cyder is extracted from the fruit on the Continent, and the beverage with which it furniſhes the inhabitants, is ſtronger than that obtained from the Apple. ‡

The extreme hardneſs of the wood renders it of ſingular utility to ſeveral artificers: turners have long been acquainted with its great uſe and durability; mill-wrights find it of conſiderable advantage in ſundry parts of their buſineſs. ¶

We are informed, that *M. de Buffon* § has for ſome years paſt cultivated the *Sorbus* with great care at his plantations in Burgundy. Quadrupeds, as well as birds, are particularly fond of the fruit.

* *In Anglia ſponte non provenit*, are his words. *Hiſt. Plant. p.* 1456.

** Page 452.

† It is of great ſervice in hæmorrhages.—*See Ray.*

‡ On peut faire avec le ſuc des ſorbes ou des Cormes infuſées dans l'eau une aſſez bonne boiſſon; ſi l' on a cependant aſſez de ces fruits pour ſe paſſer du ſecours de l'eau, on en obtient un cidre plus fort que celui des Pommes. *Du Hamel. tom.* 2. *p.* 274.

¶ Some of his coadjutors in Natural Hiſtory aſſert, that in thoſe grounds are trees at leaſt one foot in circumference, and twenty five in height. They bear removal well.

§ Le bois eſt ſur tout excellent pour les parties de machines expoſées à de grands frottemens, telles que des piéces de preſſoir, des outils de menuiſerie, des chevilles de moulins, &c.—*Bomare.*

In the *Memoir. du Suede, vol.* 15. 1753, the uſe of this wood in mechanics is fully demonſtrated, and greatly recommended. We ſhall conclude this ſhort account with referring the reader for more particulars on the ſubject, to that valuable miſcellany.

ADDENDA *to the Account of the* COMMON SERVICE TREE, *Plate* 212.

CRATÆGUS TORMINALIS.

Cratægus foliis cordatis ſpetangulis lobis infimis divaricatis. Linnæi, ſp. pl. 476. —*Cratægis foliis cordatis acutis: lacinulis acutis ſerratis. Hort. Cliff.* 187.—*Roy, Ludb.* 271.—*Meſpilis apii folio ſylveſtris non ſpinoſa ſeu* Sorbus torminalis. *Bauhin. pinax* 454. *Raii ſynopſis* 453.—*Sorbus torminalis. Com. Epit.* 162. *Ger. Em.* 1471. *ſeu vulgaris.—Parkinſon.* 1420.—*Plantæ Woodfordienſes, p.* 99.—*Martynis Plantæ Cantabrigienſis,* 11.

COMMON WILD SERVICE or SORB.

LINNÆUS informs us this tree grows in England, Germany, Helvetia, and Burgundy. It is found wild in hedges and woods, and merits a place in plantations for the beauty of its foliage, as well as its flower and fruit. At Biſhop's Wood, near *Hampſtead*, there may be ſeen ſeveral trees of this ſpecies. It is ſaid the Common Service will riſe to the height of thirty or forty feet.

The word is uſed by ſeveral Artificers as well as that of the true Service. The Tree will bear the inclemencies of our Engliſh winters better than moſt others propagated in this Country, and flouriſhes beſt in a ſtrong ſoil.

ERRATA.

Page 45. title Siyâh Ghûſh, dele *from a Drawing of Dr. Sharp, &c.*

In the Catalogue of LINNÆUS, Page 10, the reader is deſired, after the words, *Hand of a Boy with a diſtempered ſkin*, to add——*with a branch of the* Common Service Tree.